

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. Five additional minutes will be added to each side of the debate. The gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) will control 5 additional minutes, and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) will control 5 additional minutes.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I am very pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) the distinguished leader.

(Mr. GEPHARDT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY) and I thank the chairman for allowing this additional debate to go on.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Lowey-Greenwood amendment. The inadequate funding and restrictions on our international family planning assistance in this bill should be rejected. And that is only one of the many glaring flaws in this bill that I hope we can correct this afternoon.

As we heard so eloquently last night, the funding in this bill for debt relief is clearly inexcusable. With the funding provided in this bill, governments in developing nations will continue to stagger under huge loads of debt. Millions of people in Africa, South America, Central America will be deprived of much needed education, health care and development. These governments will have to repay loans before addressing the fundamental need of their people.

Another outrageous shortcoming in this bill is the cut in funding requested to fight the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

People in America, our constituents, are just in many cases beginning to learn of the tragedy of AIDS in Africa and around the world. This is a crisis that has affected us and people around the world for many years now. But in African nations it reaches alarming proportions.

I led a delegation that some of my colleagues accompanied me on in December to Nigeria and Zimbabwe and South Africa. It is one thing to intellectualize and theorize about this problem. It is quite another thing to confront dying humanity by the thousands and thousands.

Twenty-two million people in Africa are infected with HIV/AIDS. Many, many more thousands are infected each week, each month.

This issue, in my opinion, is the moral imperative of our time. How much longer will we go on and say it does not matter, it does not concern me that 22 million people are probably going to die?

I can theorize about it. But when I confront it head on, as we did in a village in Zimbabwe where everyone we met was infected with HIV/AIDS, it is a different matter.

There has never in the history of the world been a threat to life like this. If

an Army were raging through Africa killing millions of people, we would be mounting armies to go to Africa to save lives. We say we are concerned with life.

This is the issue of life in our world today. I beg the Members to vote for these amendments, to move our world in the right direction to provide the assistance and the aid that people are crying out for.

Finally, I will say we met the head doctor of the largest hospital in Johannesburg. He is a pediatrician. He said that half the children that are born in the hospital right now are infected with HIV/AIDS and will die within the next year; and we cannot even provide, he said, the medication that we know we can provide that costs about \$8 to make sure that the children of HIV-infected AIDS patients will be free of AIDS. And it is 70 percent effective. Eight dollars. Eight dollars to make sure that a child who will be born will not die.

This is the moral issue of our time. I pray that this House and all of our great Representatives will stand and deliver on the moral issue, the most important moral issue we will ever face. Vote for these amendments.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I will try to be brief and just say that the eloquence of the minority leader and his comments are something that many of us agree with. But he was speaking to the issue of AIDS not the pending pro-abortion amendment.

HIV/AIDS certainly is a devastating scourge on the planet. To date it has claimed the lives of millions of victims and we must find a cure. When Mr. GEPHARDT talked about the \$8 for medicine it's worth pointing out that I raised the issue myself at the Committee on International Relations over a year ago. Thankfully, some of the drug companies have offered to provide certain AIDS drugs at cost to foreign governments and NGOs in an effort to mitigate the transference of AIDS to newborns. Since then I have requested our Agency for International Development to make money available to purchase those kinds of drugs to ensure HIV-free babies.

Mr. GEPHARDT really spoke to amendments that will follow this, although he did make a passive reference to the pending legislation.

Mr. Chairman, let me just also say that this vote is not about family planning, it is about abortion promotion and the performance of abortion. Our hope is to continue the wall of separation between the taking of human life by abortion and the prevention of human life. And that policy, which was in effect for 9 years during the Reagan-Bush years worked extremely well. During those years—and now—the United States was and continues to be the largest donor to family planning programs in the world. As a matter of fact, no one even comes close.

The current policy is both pro-family planning and pro-life.

Because many of us believe that the most elemental of all human rights is the right to life, that babies should not be subjected to the violence of abortion, to dismemberment, to chemical poisoning and other methods of battering. The ugly face of abortion, the cruelty of the methods is often masked and sanitized by the advocates of abortion. They do not want to talk about what is done to the baby to procure "fetal demise." It is too ugly. I believe, however, that we need to face the brutal truth of what abortion does to a baby. And the wounds it inflicts on the mother. It is violence against children.

I urge a no vote, a no vote on the pending amendment by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD).

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CALLAHAN), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, with respect to the minority leader and the gentlewoman from California's (Ms. PELOSI) request for additional time, I will tell my colleague that I removed my objections because I know the minority leader is busy, especially in his new role running for vice president, and I want to accommodate him every way we can. But I would encourage the gentlewoman to restrain if she possibly can from asking for unanimous consent requests, because Members have schedules and I would appreciate very much her not asking for unanimous consent requests for extended time.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CALLAHAN. I yield to the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, it was my understanding from a previous ruling of the parliamentarian that that was in order, or else I would have informed my colleague in advance of the request. But I did not think it was an extraordinary request. But I hear what he is saying, and I appreciate that. I will do my best.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage Members to vote no on all three amendments coming up and remind them that last year I think it was a near unanimous vote for the bill which included this exact same language and which the President signed into law. So I would urge a no vote on all three amendments.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment. I oppose Section 587 of this bill for two reasons. The first is that this language belongs in an authorizing bill and not an appropriations bill. This is a very complex and controversial issue. The attention that this issue requires can only be properly